

FOREVER PROTECTED



Bob Heiser of the Vermont Land Trust and CRAG-VT's Travis Peckham


Photo: Kevin Kern

Access to climbs like *Fresh Meat* at Upper West Bolton are permanently protected through a conservation easement held by the Vermont Land Trust.

The last time you were climbing at one of the crags conserved through the efforts of CRAG-VT, you may have noticed a super flashy kiosk with the latest newsletter, a route map, and usually a belt or a chalk bag that some poor soul left behind. Moving forward, there will be one extra bright spot of bling on the kiosks to catch your attention: signage to represent the relationship CRAG-VT has with the Vermont Land Trust (VLT).

While the signs may be new, CRAG-VT and VLT have been working together for years, forging a partnership that not only works to conserve land and protect climber's access, but provides ways to protect that access forever.

You're sure to be familiar with the fundraising efforts put on by CRAG-VT in an effort to raise money to purchase a crag. But what happens once the ink is dry? What happens if there is a lawsuit, a use violation, or the board members of CRAG-VT get a life and the organization dissolves? It's in these circumstances that the VLT comes into play.

VLT holds conservation easements on Upper West and Lower West as well as the

Quarry. An easement is a legal document that describes what a piece of land can and cannot be used for, and this use is tied to the land itself (it's transferred to new owners if the land changes hands). Conservation easements are generally designed to protect open spaces or forestland – for example, a landowner may separate the development and division rights from the title of the land, thus ensuring that the land cannot be subdivided and developed. For recreation areas, like our crags, our easement explicitly protects the climbers' right to climb on our cliffs, no matter what! Plus, because this easement is held by a separate entity, if CRAG-VT ever goes the way of the dodo bird or messenger pigeon, there will still be someone looking out for our climbing lands.

So the next time you're out climbing and you see a blue and white sign attached to the kiosk, give it a little shine, and climb assured that the cliff will be there for you to climb for a very, very long time.

—Maureen Whalley Beck



New VLT signage installed on the kiosk at Lower West Bolton.

A BIG THANK YOU

CRAG-VT was brought into existence by a community of supporters – and it’s that same support that has been at the heart of every successful project and every achievement we’ve had in the name of conservation and outdoor recreation. 2010 was another big year of successes, so we want to thank all of our members and supporters – *that’s you*.

And here’s a few folks who particularly deserve our thanks for all their efforts:

- Everyone related to the Carcass Crag project: The Access Fund, the Bolton Conservation Commission, surveyor Paul Hannan, lawyer Pam Moreau, board members Dick Katzman and Travis Peckham, company donors, and all of the many volunteers who attended meetings, searched documents, and wrote grants;
- Chris Bernier and Josh Katzman, for their tireless work on the 1st Annual *24 Hours of Waterbury* trail race and CRAG-VT fundraiser; Bonnie Katzman, for her amazing food preparation and human care; Zachary’s Pizza, for providing a huge number of great pizzas during the race;
- Kevin Karn (www.kevinkarn.com), for printing and mailing all of the membership cards and graphic design of the CRAG Rags;
- Allaire Diamond and Seth Maciejowski, for their field and office time related to the Upper West and Lower West Management Plans;
- Vermont Land Trust (www.vlt.org), for ongoing support with land management issues;
- Outdoor Gear Exchange (www.gearx.com), for printing of the CRAG Rags;
- Paul Hansen and Ecopixel (www.ecopixel.com), for hosting CRAG-VT’s website and community forums;
- Petra Cliffs (www.petracliffs.com), for their continual help to CRAG-VT;
- Climb High, EMS, UVM, and more for table space/visibility at events;
- David Crothers and Climberism (www.climberism.com), for ongoing support and exposure of CRAG-VT;
- CRAG-VT’s official sponsors: Petra Cliffs, Climb High/Mammut, OGE, Julbo, Sunrise Adventure Sports, and EMS;
- Richmond Home Supply, for donating all materials for the Upper West kiosk;
- All CRAG Rag writers and photographers;
- Chris Bernier, for his service as CRAG-VT Treasurer; and
- Travis Peckham, for the years of effort put forth while President of CRAG-VT.



Photo: Ross Perry

Bonnie and Josh Katzman, instrumental in the success of the inaugural *24 Hours of Waterbury* event

BOARD CHANGES WITHIN CRAG-VT

CRAG-VT’s President for the past five years, Travis Peckham, announced his resignation in late November. Although he now has stepped down as President, Travis will remain on the Board to continue working on conserving and preserving climbing access. Under Travis’s watch, CRAG-VT acquired the Upper West Bolton and Carcass Crag parcels and secured permanent access to the 82 Crag. His countless hours of effort toward these projects seemed at times like a part-time job, and we are all thankful for the decade of volunteer service Travis has given to CRAG-VT and Vermont climbing!

CRAG-VT’s new President is Seth Maciejowski, a local climber who has a solid resume of first ascents and bold leads on both rock and ice. Seth has been on the CRAG-VT Board for four years, and has served as Secretary as well as Vice-President during this time. His vision and willingness to lead CRAG-VT is great news for Vermont climbers and conservation enthusiasts, and we all look forward to working with Seth to continue making progress!

—Ross Perry



THE CRAG RAG is the official membership newsletter of Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont (CRAG-VT).

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CRAG-VT is run entirely by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or Board membership, please contact us!

CRAG-VT BOARD MEMBERS

- Seth Maciejowski – *President*
- Ross Perry – *Vice President, Conservation & Stewardship Committee Chair*
- Kel Rossiter – *Secretary*
- Maureen Whalley Beck
- Dave Crothers
- Paul Hansen – *Webmaster, Education & Outreach Committee Chair*
- Kevin Karn
- Dr. Richard Katzman – *LWB Land Steward*
- Travis Peckham

CRAG-VT ADVISORY BOARD

- Mike Anderson
- Chris Bernier
- Heather Furman
- Job Heintz
- Pam Moreau
- Alden Pellett
- Adam Sherman

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MEETINGS

CRAG-VT typically meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Camels Hump Middle School in Richmond, VT. The public is welcome to meetings. Please call or email to confirm the time and date.

Newsletter design by Kevin Karn
www.kevinkarn.com

The Choss Pile

Vermont Climbing News

With the ice season well underway and new lines coming into shape with each freeze, we can look back at this past rock season to realize that once again local climbers have proven these old hills can still serve up some great surprises.

The 82 crag continues to yield fine new routes as Derrek Anderson demonstrated by unearthing the oft gazed upon *Kid Charlemagne* (5.10a). Anderson and Dennis Delay grabbed the FA of this line on the far right side of the main face which offers an aesthetic, steep start to *War on Drugs* (5.10a) and avoids the ironically named and often derided Scenic Cruise pitch. Anderson suggests linking the two pitches for a beautiful long and sustained pitch up the main face of the 82 crag.

In an area sorely lacking in moderate pitches, Upper Upper West Bolton Cliff is rapidly filling this niche. After adding *Full Term* earlier in the summer, Seth Maciejowski spied yet another worthy looking line on the Wild West Wall. After some scrubbing and a few dropped tools, *Milk Train* (5.8) was climbed by Maciejowski and Kevin Karn. This route takes a line on the far left side of Upper Upper offering up two pitches and some full value 5.8 slab climbing. In addition to this route, Eli Worley added another super pitch – *F**k Pigs* (5.10a). This route pulls two roofs and offers up steep face climbing and a heady finish in the vicinity of the older pitch *Johnny Cash* (5.9x).



A young Flynn Peckham on an early top-rope ascent of *Milk Train* at Upper Upper West Bolton

Over in Marshfield, after 3 years of effort, Peter Kamitses established Vermont's hardest line *Stoning the Fascist* (5.14b), which tackles miniscule holds up the amazing, overhanging wall above the High Grade Ledge to a gear protected scary finish. Way to go Peter! For those who haven't been there, Marshfield ledge offers up a wide range of great granite climbing in addition to the steep routes on the High Grade wall.

The venerable Oompah Loompah wall at Upper West Bolton is the site of another new Travis Peckham pitch – *Normandy* (5.11c). *Normandy* begins with a devious sequence of stemming maneuvers to a mounting pump meltdown and a final sting in the tail to clip the anchors. This route, located between 5.7 *Corner* and *Oompah Loompah* is destined to accumulate a lot of frequent flier miles and is a great addition to the cliff.

As winter is now in full swing, CRAG-VT is looking forward to tall tales of new ice routes and repeats of old classics. Be sure to keep us filled in on your climbing news through the winter.

Thanks to EW, TP, DA, and PK for info.
Compiled by Seth Maciejowski

CLIMBING COMMON SENSE

Whether you're out there now swinging tools on fat ice or pulling plastic while patiently awaiting the return

of temperatures more suitable for rock – before you head out, remember that much of Vermont's climbing is on private land and access can be a delicate matter. And even while on public land, the following guidelines will help ensure good relationships among climbers, landowners, and land managers:

1 If you don't know, ASK.

Where to park? Where to hike in from? Is the cliff closed due to peregrine nesting? If you don't know, ask the landowner.

2 Turn down the volume.

Sound travels easily in wilderness settings. Keep noise to a minimum on the approach and while climbing. Leave boom boxes and barking dogs at home.

3 Leave no trace.

"Take only photos, leave only foot prints..." Stay on existing trails. Pack out garbage whether it's yours or someone else's. Don't place or leave fixed anchors without consent from the landowner.

4 Use common sense & courtesy.

Be smart and polite to landowners, neighbors and other land users. Climbing on private land is a privilege, not a right.

CRAG-VT is an organization for climbers and landowners. We encourage both to contact us with concerns about access problems, landowner liability, and natural resource issues. For more information visit www.cragvt.org.



At the end of August on some of the most pristine single track in New England, a dedicated group of runners hosted the inaugural 24 Hours of Waterbury (www.24hoursofwaterbury.com). This trail running race, which may be the hardest 24 hour trail race in the nation, was a benefit for CRAG VT. The race offered either teams or individuals the chance to push their personal envelope for 24 or 12 hours and concluded Sunday morning with an 8 mile “fun run”.

Each aid station was stocked with ginger chews, pizza, Gu Brew and shots, chocolate and a whole host of other obscure requests from runners including dill pickles. The course featured 1,500 vertical of gain and loss per 8.2 mile loop. Needless to say your quads were much happier on the Friday before the race. The winner of the 24 Hour solo event logged 82 miles and actually got faster (and happier) as night settled in. The winner of the 12 hour race, local climber and runner Serena Wilcox logged 58 miles. The current course record was set at the 8 mile fun run at 1:10:56. With such success for an inaugural event, we hope to continue it again in years to come.

I hope that you were able to push your own personal envelope this summer in climbing, running or any other form of outdoor activity that you participated in.

Special thanks to: Climb High, Gu, Nuun, Julbo, Sunflower Natural Foods, The Reservoir, Vermont Smoke and Cure, and Irunfar.com.

—Chris Bernier



A competitor receives a little family support



Rendering: NYSDOT

CROWN POINT Bridge Update

As of December 1, 2010, the long-standing Crown Point Bridge was completely removed from its former location, which spanned Lake Champlain between Chimney Point, VT, and Crown Point, NY. Construction of the replacement bridge began immediately and, as of this writing, all new bridge footings are in place. The NY DOT, who is overseeing the construction of the bridge, stated that the “rest of the work should progress more steadily and be more visible.” Expected completion date for the new bridge is October, 2011. For climbers heading to the Adirondacks now, you can use the free ferry service located just south of the former bridge site. This ferry operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, you can still access New York from the three other ferries that run out of Charlotte, Burlington, or Grand Isle, VT.

—Ross Perry



This year marks the 5th Annual Alpinist/Smuggs Ice Bash, which runs from Friday, January 28th through Sunday, January 30th, 2011. Throughout the weekend, climbers and spectators can enjoy a variety of events, such as a slideshow by Matt McCormick followed by an indoor drytooling competition, a climber gathering and slideshow by Ian Osteyee, and many ice clinics in Smugglers Notch with Sunrise Adventure Guides. Please note that there will be a change of venue for the evening gathering and slideshow, so visit http://www.sunriseclimbing.com/ice_bash_page.html for more information. To see more information about the 1st Annual Vermont Indoor Drytooling Comp, visit http://petracliffs.com/upcoming_events.html.

—Ross Perry



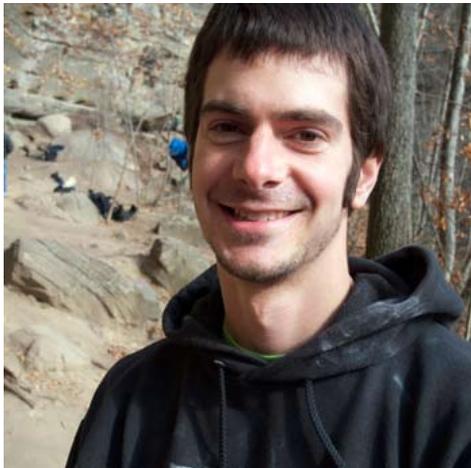
Runners complete another lap at 24 Hours of Waterbury

Local Faces: Matt McCormick

I started climbing in 1997 at some of the crags around Boston, MA, and also at an awesome crag in central MA called Crow Hill. It was cool starting at Crow Hill because it was actually one of the most cutting-edge crags back in the day. One of the first 5.11's in the country was put up there by Henry Barber.

The progression in climbing is what has continued to motivate and inspire me over the years. Progression not just in terms of difficulty, but also the possibilities that have opened up with experience and the opportunity to visit amazing locations all over the world and continually meet inspiring people who share that same passion. For me, I also really value pursuing climbing in all of its forms, from sport climbing to ice and mixed climbing. Ever since I started in high school, I have been super motivated to try hard in all of those genres and take those skills to a variety of areas, from the mountains to the local crags. Keeping that diversity in my climbing has been a huge part of staying motivated each year and is really important to me.

I started leading during my senior year of high school, mainly in MA with the occasional trip to NH. I remember my first time leading *Moby Grape* on Cannon Cliff and it taking my friend and I all day long, like 12 hours or something! We were completely destroyed afterward for days.



Matt McCormick

My favorite rock crag in Vermont is the 82 crag, and the route *Dogfather* (5.12b) is one of my favorites, although I love Marshfield as well for the incredible routes there. Both are really unique spots to climb, which appeals to me. For ice, my favorite route is *Solstice* (WI6+) at Lake Willoughby. The Lake is one of the most inspiring places that I've climbed anywhere, and I had some of my most



Matt giving his all and feeling *No Redemption* (5.13b), Red River Gorge

Photo: Tim Derehain

memorable adventures on the ice and mixed routes there.

My favorite rock crag globally? Wow, that's a pretty tough question... It might be a toss-up between The Rostrum in Yosemite and the Grand Wall in Squamish. Then again, it's hard to beat the Spider's Web right in the Adirondacks as a single crag. That might be my favorite crag anywhere.

My trip to Pakistan this past summer was pretty amazing, even though the conditions prevented us from completing our main goal. Culturally, it was an amazing experience visiting a place that is largely viewed in the US as being anti-American and finding some of the most gracious and friendly people I've met anywhere. The mountains of Pakistan themselves are mind-blowing in size and scale. The locals kept asking us how big the mountains were in our "village" and we could only compare to the foothills there. They thought that was pretty funny.

New England has some of the best people in its climbing community that I've met anywhere. There are always people who are psyched to get out and inspire each other to try hard, one of the reasons I love living here. There are lots of people I enjoy climbing with. In the winter, I climb a lot with my friend Josh Hurst, who currently lives in Bar Harbor, Maine. We don't take ourselves too seriously, climbing together and always have a good time; we even send a few things now and then. I also love climbing with my girlfriend Naomi Risch. It's pretty awesome to share that passion for climbing with my partner and getting to go on

cool trips together. We've traveled everywhere from sport climbing in Spain to climbing in Yosemite together.

I love living five minutes from Bolton, and I am extremely appreciative of the time and effort that CRAG-VT puts into acquiring and maintaining access around the area.



Paradigm Shift (M8) Snake Mountain, Vermont

Photo: Dave Vuono

I'm giving a slideshow at Petra Cliffs on Friday, January 28th, 2011. The show will be about my trip to Pakistan, and afterwards there will be the 1st Annual Petzl Vermont Drytooling Invitational! This will be an indoor drytooling comp, showcasing some of the best mixed climbers in the northeast. The comp will kick off the 5th Annual 2011 Smuggs Ice Bash, and there will be a brand new 70m Petzl Rope and \$150 to the winner. Come check it out!

Matt can be reached via his blog at mattmccormickclimbing.blogspot.com.

—As told to Ross Perry

Six days before my wedding, I found myself getting on a plane to go climbing in Vedauwoo, Wyoming, with Paradox Sports. While the timing was poor (I should have been home tying bows on favors and practicing speeches) and the hazards great (Hello! Giant, oozing gobies don't go with a backless, sleeveless dress!), I simply could not pass up an opportunity to climb in a new place with such a great group.

Paradox is a multi-faceted organization that works to put physically disadvantaged people outside, doing human-powered activities that may have otherwise been thought impossible. In addition to getting folks out who have never climbed before, or who used to climb before having a body changing accident, Paradox provides continuous support for disabled athletes pushing their limits. Don't confuse Paradox with a touchy-feely, warm and fuzzy support group. I have joined the group for two years of Gimps on Ice and had a blast, so there was no way that half a continent and poor timing could keep me away from the first Gimps on Rock.

The Four Mile Canyon fire was still burning strong when my friend and fellow gimp, Chad Butrick, picked me up at the airport. I had met Chad a year and a half prior at what was our first Gimps on Ice festival. Chad had lost his right leg below the knee in a car accident five years ago, and at the ice



Photo: Lee Pruitt

The author, one of many "Gimps on Rock"

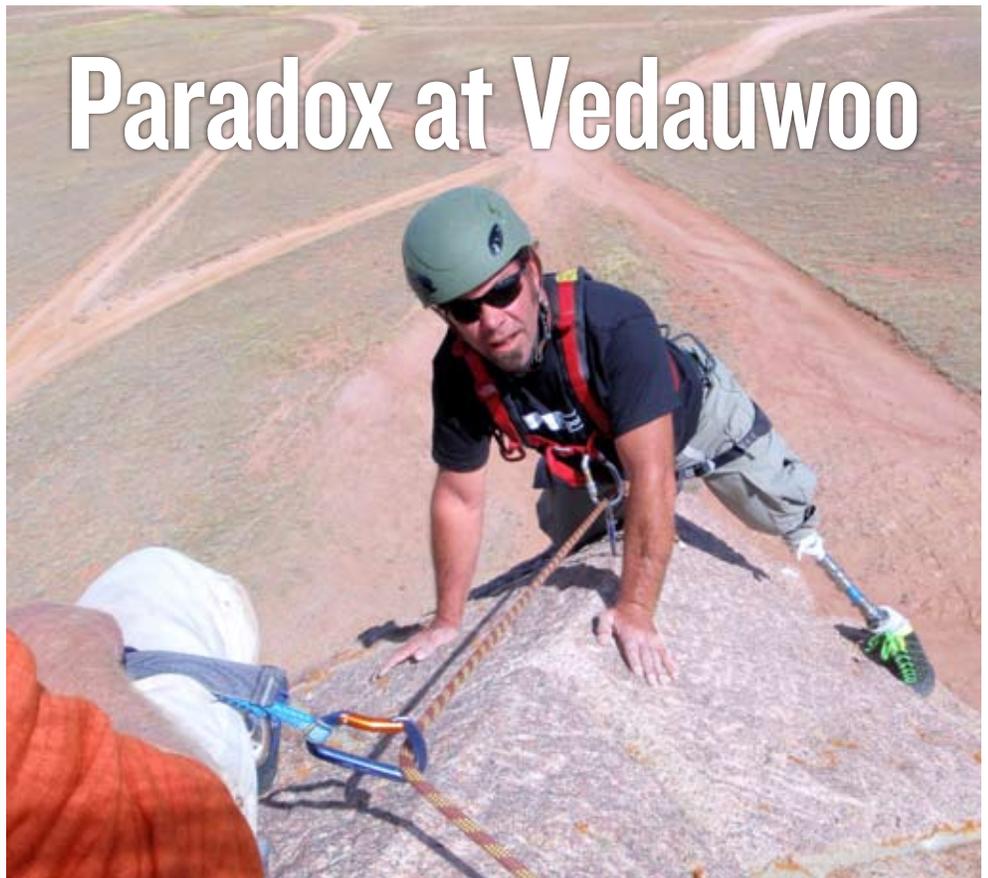


Photo: Maureen Whalley Beck

Tommy Carroll tops out in Vedauwoo

festival, he was still coming to terms with what it meant to be a gimp and how he would let it affect his life. "That weekend," he says of GOI 2009, "changed my life." Now, he is Co-Executive Director of Paradox Sports and an active member of Soldiers to the Summit, with whom he recently summited Lobuche in Nepal this fall.

As we sped north, the smoke cleared and all we could see were the vast high plains of eastern Colorado, then Wyoming. Vedauwoo is halfway between Cheyenne and Laramie, and only about two hours from Denver. Of course, all we ever hear about the Voo is that it has nasty offwidths and that the rock has teeth so sharp, you're lucky to leave with a face your mom would recognize. I can agree that the offwidths are nasty indeed, but as an East Coast climber, I found the rock type to be extremely similar to that of Acadia's. The offwidths really start in the high 5.10 range, but there are beautiful hand and finger cracks up to and through that grade. We also took the opportunity to step out on to some slab climbs. The rock is so sticky, you can get away with slabs that are steeper than anything you find in New England.

Vedauwoo has challenging lines, and the type of climbers there for the weekend made the best of it. Tommy is an above-knee amputee, and only started rock climbing this summer. Next time you're out, imagine

climbing without bending your knee at all - and that your foot is at the height your knee should be. Chad and Malcolm are both below-knee amputees, and all three wear special climbing 'feet' with shoes specially designed by Evolv. Without knee articulation, Tommy favored face climbs that didn't require high stepping, whereas Chad preferred the option to stuff his prosthetic foot into a crack (provided that he could remove it, though that was not always the case).

What makes weekends with Paradox Sports special is that no one is special. Folks are no longer the lone guy at the gym with one leg, the girl you see at the crag in a wheelchair, the fellow with one arm. Because you are surrounded by gimps, you forget that you are one, and as Tommy said, "These weekends are the only times I can just be myself in my own body and not think about being disabled." Climbing is an equalizer no matter what body you have, it's not quite natural to leave good solid ground for unknown heights above. However, we all push ourselves just a little more each time and manage to get back to the earth with a little better understanding of what makes us unique, not just different.

For more information and photos of the event, please visit paradoxsports.org.

—Maureen Whalley Beck